SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Sir, as suggested by the hon. Member, certainly we will ask the BICP to submit their report immediately. And we will take action on that.

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : At present, how is the price being regulated? There is no price control or decontrol...

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: As my colleague has mentioned, some of the vitamins are manufactured only by our public sector undertakings There also, we will control those prices also.

Dr. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Mr. Chairman Sir, Vitamins are very essential and there are vitamin-deficiency diseases also. And the poor people are prone to these vitamin-deficiency diseases and we are not able to give them proteins, we are not able to give them a balanced diet. Under the circumstances, the supply of vitamins is very essential for maintaining the health of the common people.

We appreciate what the Minister has said about vitamin A deficiences and how it is useful. Not only vitamin A, Sir, but all vitamins are essential. In the circumstances, what action the hon. Minister will take to see that all vitamins are supplied to the people at a very very cheap price, because they are essential and without that our citizens cannot have good health.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Dr. Reddy is a medical doctor, not the other doctor.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is a medical doctor.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Yes, when I was the Chief Minister he was the D. M. O. of Karimnagar District

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says, he is an efficient doctor.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Sir I entirely agree with his arguments. That is why I said we are interested in the consumer and not the industrialists. That is why we are awaiting the report of the BICP after which we will take action.

SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: They are all praising the Minister since none of them is a doctor.

श्री तीरथ राम आमला : जनाब चेयरमैन साहब, मैं आपके जरिए मिनिस्टर साहब से यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि जहां प्राइस कंट्रोल का जिक्र हो रहा है और वह जोर-शोर से प्राइस कंट्रोल कर रहे हैं, क्या क्वालिटी कंट्रोल के मुतल्लिक भी इनका कोई ध्यान है ? ऐसा तो नहीं है कि प्राइस तो कम कर दी मगर उस कैप्सूल की या गोली की जो क्वालिटी है वह आधी रह गई ? क्या कोई आर्गनाइजेशन या एजेंसी ऐसी है जो इस क्वालिटी को कंट्रोल करती है ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know about the quantity and quality control.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: We are giving top priority on quality. First of all they must get a certificate from the Drugs Controller and only then we will fix the prices.

Hike in power Tariffs in Punjab

*284. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently, a steep hike has been effected in the power tariffs in Punjab;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what process was adopted for fixing new tariffs and whether any consultations were held with the representatives of Commerce and Industry of the State in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPTT. OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) The increase in tariffs for supply of power to Industries and some other categories of consu mers is as under:—

Hike in Power Tariffs in Punjab

S.No.	Category of consumer	Average increase in rate
(i)	Non-Residential supply	10 paise/kwh
(ii)	For Small Power Industries (Load upto 20 KW) .	7 paise/kwh
(iii)	For Medium Industries (Load between 21 & 100 KW)	16 pasie/kwh
(iv)	For Large Industries (Load above 100 KW) . .	18 paise/kwh
(v)	Public lighting & Bulk supply	18 paise/kwh
(vi)	Grid supply	18.5 paise/kwh

The tariff for domestic and agriculture consumers remains unchanged.

(c) The fixation of tariff is within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Punjab State Electricity Board (PSEB) and State Government. The PSEB has revised the tariffs for supply of power in consultation with the State Government. Some relief has been given to the large industrial consumers with effect from 17-7-1989 after discussing the matter in the State Industrial Advisory Board and with the Members of Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, in part (c) of my question I had specifically asked whether any prior consultations were held with the representatives of commerce and industry in the State. I am sorry to point out that the answer to that part has a streak of arrogance and some account of undemocratic functioning of our institutions, becasuse it says that the fixation of tariff....

MR. CHAIRMAN: which institutions ?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Democratic institutions, in this case the electricity board. Sir, The answer says that the fixation of tariff is within the exculsive jurisdiction of the Punjab State Electricity Board and the State Government. This is the reply, whereas the Minister would agree with me that there is provision for having a consultative council which has to be consulted before the Board ever takes a decision like that. In any case, I am happy that now there has been given some concession,. But I would still speciffically want to know from the hon. Minister whether on account of the increase in the price of coal and the freight charges the additional burden on the electricity board comes to only 8 paise per unit and if that is so why has the rate been increased much beyond that?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I am sorry to say that the hon. Member is not correctly informed. Sir, there was consultation held with the State Industrial Advisory Board and also with the members of Chambers of Commerce and Industry who were...

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: In the answer it is given subsequently.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: And Sir, I had personally, the hon. Member might be knowing, met the representatives, who had come to me, of these industries and I had personally intervened and taken up the matter with both the Government and the State Electricity Boards. The relief that has been given has been the result of all these efforts. But on facts the increase due to rise in the cost of coal, fuel cost tariff cost and all that comes to approximately about 31 paise, and not 8 paise, as you have been informed. And that is why, Sir, the increase that has been brought about now comes to an average of 18 paise, if it varied from 13 paise to 26 paise. But now we have kept it, or the State Electricity Board has kept it at the level maximum of 20 paise. That is why it has come down further. There is a further relief, and even with this, there would be a loss because the recovery will be only Rs. 85 crores in 1989-90 against the fuel cost increase of Rs. 161 crores. Surely, you don't want the State Electricity Board of Punjab to suffer such a huge loss.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Surely I dont want Electricity Board to suffer a loss. The hon. Minister has said that expenses work out to 30 paise per unit I suppose when this figure had been worked out, they had not taken into consideration the additional power generation in the State. The cost incurred by the Board has been spread over the generation which was there before the additional generation. Of course, I must say with a sense of satisfaction that the State is doing well in generation. But the additional cost does not go beyond 8 paise. I would request the hon. Minister to call for officials and check up on what account this 8 paise figure comes to 31 paise. In any case, I would like to know from the hon. Minister now whether it is a fact that in the case of a large number of consumers, consuming about 75 per cent of the total electricity which is consumed by the industrial sector in our State for their normal consumption their electricity bills have risen by about 40 per cent. I would like to hear 'yes' or 'no', because there is a fear in the minds of the people and despite the Board's claim that the price increase is only 18 paise, they say that their bills have increased by more than 40 per cent.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I will give the breakup of the cost. In 1986-87; the fuel cost was Rs. 196 crores; it has increased to Rs. 369 crores in 1989-90; cost of power purchased has gone up from Rs. 24 crores to Rs. 162 crores. On this, the SEB has no control. Then, O&M expenses have increased from Rs. 27 crores to Rs. 41 crores; then establish expenses have increased from Rs. 98 crores to Rs. 170 crores; DBA expenses from Rs. 3 crore to Rs. 8 crores. All this expenditure has gone up from Rs. 342 crores to Rs. 752 crores, and the increase is of Rs. 410 crores. This is how the cost comes to 31 paise on the average, as I said. In the case of generationt, you will appreciate, they are efficient. But increase in generation mean increase in the cost also because they have to utilise more coal, and coal has become costly because of freight and increase in the cost of coal also. So you can understand the increase in cost.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

Production of tooth powder by big industrial units

*285. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that tooth powder production is reserved